

Message Text

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17 10

ACTION INR-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 IO-14 ISO-00 AF-10 SR-02 ORM-03

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 SAJ-01

NIC-01 DRC-01 /164 W

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R 301429Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 730

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

USINT CAIRO

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 9684

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR, XF

SUBJ: SOVIET POSTURE TOWARD FEDAYEEN

REF: TEL AVIV 9421 NOTAL, MOSCOW 14899 NOTAL, 14934 NOTAL

1. DIRETOR VERED OF MIDDLE EAST AFFAIRS IN MFA CONTACTED US NOVEMBER 30 TO GIVE US HER REVISED INTERPRETATION OF SOVIET ATTITUDE TOWARD FEDAYEEN, IN LIGHT OF ARAFAT'S RECENT VISIT TO MOSCOW.

2. MRS VERED SAID THAT SOVIET ATTITUDE WAS NOT AS CLEARCUT AS SHE HAD EARLIER POSTULATED (TEL AVIV REFTTEL). IN ISRAELI VIEW NEW STAGE WAS REACHED AT END OF 1969 WHEN SHELEPIN DURING VISIT TO BUCHAREST DECLARED THAT PALESTINIANS ARE A PEOPLE AND PALESTINIAN PEOPLE HAVE A LIBERATION MOVEMENT. THIS WAS A KIND OF SOVIET RECOGNITION, AND SOVIET ATTITUDE
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REMAINED IN THIS PHASE UNTIL JORDAN EVENTS OF SEPTEMBER 1970.

3. MRS VERED CONTINUED THAT IN SEPTEMBER 1970 MOSCOW REALIZED THAT PALESTINIAN ORGANIZATIONS WERE NOT ANSWERING SOVIET CRITERIA FOR LIBERATION MOVEMENTS, AND A CERTAIN RESERVE APPEARED IN SOVIET PUBLIC POSTURE RE FEDAYEEN. RESERVE WAS REINFORCED WHEN FADAYEEN STEPPED UP THEIR PROGRAM FOR INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM, AND IT REACHED PEAK WITH MUNICH MASSACRE OF SEPTEMBER 1972, ALTHOUGH SOVIETS FOR OPPORTUNIST REASONS CONTINUED TO REFER TO PALESTINIANS AS A PEOPLE AND ONE HAVE OWN LIBERATION MOVEMENT.

4. MRS VERED EXPRESSED VIEW THAT SOVIET RESERVATIONS ABOUT QUALIFICATIONS OF FEDAYEEN AS LIBERATION MOVEMENT HAVE CONTINUED TO PRESENT DAY. SHE NOTED THAT UNTIL LATEST VISIT FADAYEEN DELEGATIONS IN MOSCOW WERE ONLY ABLE TO SEE AFRO-ASIAN SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE, NOT CPSU OR GOVT OFFICIALS. EVEN DURING LATEST VISIT, ARAFAT AND COHORTS WERE BILLED AS SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE'S GUESTS, AND ONLY THEIR MEETINGS WITH SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE RECEIVED ANY PUBLICITY. MOREOVER, USSR TO THIS DAY HAD NOT ALLOWED OPENING OF PLO OFFICE IN MOSCOW.

5. MRS VERED SAID SHE DID NOT KNOW WHAT SIGNIFICANCE WAS OF SOVIET SWITCH TO USAGE OF TERM " PALESTINIAN NATIONAL RIGHTS." BUT SHE BELIEVED SOVIETS WOULD CONTINUE BLOWING HOT AND COLD RE FEDAYEEN DEPENDING ON URGENCIES OF MOMENT, AND THIS TERMINOLOGY SWITCH WAS PROBABLY EXAMPLE. SHE COMPARED SOVIET POSTURE RE FEDAYEEN TO THAT RE KURDISH NATIONAL MOVEMENT, WHICH ALSO HAD BEEN OPPORTUNISTIC AND HAD BEEN PLAYED BY MOSCOW BY EAR.

6. COMMENT. MRS VERED'S ANALYSIS SEEMS TO TELESCOPE BROADER QUESTION OF POSSIBLE SOVIET INTEREST IN SEEING CREATION OF INDEPENDENT PALESTINIAN STATE INTO MORE IMMEDIATE QUESTION OF SOVIET UNCERTAINTIES ABOUT POSSIBILITIES FOR MANIPULATING PLO.
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